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Goddard Space Flight Center

Inside Wallops

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College Students Prepare Experiments for NASA's Reduced Gravity Aircraft

Forty-seven teams of undergraduate college students from around the country will "float" through school during March aboard a NASA research aircraft. The teams will participate in the 1998 NASA Reduced Gravity Student Flight Opportunities program, funded by NASA and administered by the Texas Space Grant Consortium, Austin, TX.

Each team consists of up to four undergraduate level college students, a supervising professor, and a professional journalist. All team members, except the supervising professor, will have the opportunity to fly.

Students experiencing a zero-gravity environment.

Teams will develop and fly experiments aboard a NASA KC-135A aircraft that flies a roller-coaster-like flight profile over the Gulf of Mexico. Each team will fly twice, and each flight will include approximately 40 parabolic arcs. During each two- to three-hour flight, the aircraft maneuvers through steep climbs and descents; depending on the precise trajectory, passengers and their experiments can experience about 25 seconds of a zero-gravity environment. Astronauts train for space flight, and NASA scientists have conducted extensive experiments, aboard this aircraft.

In addition to performing the experiments, each team has developed a program for sharing research results with teachers, students and the general public after the flights. Participants must analyze their data, prepare educational or informational materials and submit final reports.

A list of the selected teams and additional information about the program can be found on the Internet at the following URL: **http://www.tsgc.utexas.edu/tsgc/floatn/**

The Texas Space Grant Consortium is a component of the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program, which is administered by NASA.

Earth-Viewing Satellite Would Focus on Educational, Scientific Benefits

Keying off a concept proposed by Vice President Al Gore, NASA is developing plans for a small satellite which could provide continuous views of the Earth by the year 2000. "Vice President Gore has given us an exciting challenge," said NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin. "In the coming weeks, we plan to solicit ideas from the academic, environmental, scientific and commercial communities. We will synthesize these ideas and communicate with the Congress as we go forward."

Goldin said NASA envisions "down-to-Earth" applications: "This view of our planet can help us plan as fires ravage wilderness areas, it may be able to save lives as we watch hurricanes and typhoons form and threaten coastlines across the grand sweep of ocean basins. Moreover, we think it is important to inspire young minds, provide new perspectives on the planet for our scientific community, and perhaps provide commercial applications as well. We're going to pave the way for an Earth Channel."

The satellite concept would place a high definition television camera—paired with an eight-inch telescope—into an orbit at a unique vantage point a million miles from Earth where it could provide 24-hour views of the home planet. It would orbit at a point in space where the gravitational attraction of the Sun and the Earth essentially cancel one another out, allowing the satellite to constantly view a fully sunlit hemisphere.

Early plans envision a 330-pound satellite linked to Earth through three simple, low cost ground stations equally spaced around the globe to provide continuous downlink capability. One new image would be downlinked every few minutes.

The satellite would be developed and launched within two years of a competitive selection process. College students would participate in the design and development of the spacecraft, and student teams would operate the ground stations.

Recreational Use of Wallops Island

Effective March 15 to September 15, 1998, the south and north ends of Wallops Island are closed to pedestrian and vehicular use. The closure is part of a continuing cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect the piping plover, an endangered species found along the Atlantic Coast. Anyone disturbing a protected species or their nest is subject to State and Federal penalties prescribed by the Endangered Species Act.

The only area open for recreational use is the north of the launch pads and south of the cable barrier across the beach near the old helicopter pad. Pedestrian access points are the dune crossing east of the helicopter pad and the dune crossing east of Camera Station 15.

Off-road-vehicles can gain access to the open section of beach at the dune crossing area east of Camera Station 15. This crossing will be clearly marked and is the ONLY authorized off-road-vehicle access point.

The recreational beach area may be used only during non-operational hours between sunrise and sunset. Non-operational hours are normally weekends and holidays, and before 7:30 a.m. and after 4:30 p.m. on weekdays. Launch operations may require additional closure outside normal working hours. Failure to comply with beach use restrictions will result in closure of the Island for recreational use.

All recreational beach users should remember:

- Recreational areas are open from sunrise to sunset, non-duty hours only.

- Launch areas are NEVER open for recreational use.

- Maintain the natural state of the Island. Properly dispose of all trash.

- Open fires, pets and weapons are not allowed.

- Off-road-vehicle access is limited to the dune crossing by Camera Station 15.

For a map of the exact location of closure areas and beach access points, call John Brinton, x1327.

NASA Visitor Center April Events

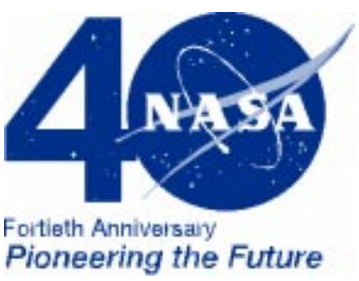
April 4 — A model rocket launch will be held at 1 p.m. Models of various rockets will be launched. Model rocketeers are invited to bring their own rockets and launch them. The launch will be canceled if it is raining or winds exceed 18 mph.

April 18 — "Kite Flight" is the subject of a 1 p.m. program for children 5-10 years of age. The 40-minute activity will look at the history of flight and give an understanding of the various kinds of flight. The children will be given the opportunity to construct and fly their own kite.

"Puppets in Space," a 10-minute puppet show will be presented at the NASA Visitor Center on Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m. Puppet astronauts and Sam the monkey will explore space flight, including the space suit. An eight-minute version of the film "Astrosmiles" follows the puppet show.

"Humans in Space" is the subject of a 1 p.m. program on Sundays for children of all ages. The 30-minute program looks at living and working in space, including a review of the astronauts' culinary delights and their wardrobe. The program is followed by a hands-on activity for children. Children will be given the opportunity to create their own "space helmet".

Every day at the NASA Visitor Center, children 5-10 years of age can earn a "Space Ace" certificate and a lithograph by completing an activity sheet during their visit to the Visitor Center.



NASA Headquarters has developed the above logo for use on NASA material to commemorate the agency's 40th anniversary.

The logo is available in several formats on the Internet. The address is: **ftp.hq.nasa.gov** in the **/pub/pao/images** directory. There are guidelines, in a read me file, for use of the logo.

While there is no requirement for mandatory use of the logo on Web pages or publications, you may want to consider using the logo, on flyers, announcements and other short-term publications.

UNLESS YOU'RE IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT WITH YOUR CAREER YOU'LL PROBABLY END UP SOMEWHERE ELSE!

Make a note on your calendar — Career Counselor, Mac Saddoris, will be at Wallops March 25, 26 and 27. You don't have to have a "burning concern" to visit with Mac. Feel free to meet with him to just get to know him.

If you want to schedule a meeting with Mac, leave a message on x66-5794. To reach him when he's at Wallops, call the Management Education Center, Building E-104, x1015.

Safe Passwords

As of March 31, 1998, a new feature takes effect on the CNE pop servers. The CNE is enforcing the "safe password" recommendation as directed by the Center CIO and Center Information Technology Security Manager.

In order to assure better security, passwords which are deemed compromisable will no longer be permitted. It is strongly suggested that you change your password after this date in order to guarantee compliance. The new feature will be in place whether you change your password by Eudora or telneting to your CNE pop server and use the menu options to change your password.

The new feature encompasses several aspects of passwords:

- checking password length

- checking password content (not allowing dictionary-based, username-related, etc. passwords)

- verifying diversity of characters (making sure alphanumeric, and special characters are used)

Before changing your password, read the following information on how to choose and change your password: **http://cne.gsfc.nasa.gov/email/eudora/password.html**

This does not affect the WAY you change your password, it merely affects the CHOICE of passwords. For further information contact Debbie Watson, x2200 or by email: **Debbie.S.Watson.1@gsfc.nasa.gov**

Easter Egg Hunt

April 4
Rain date is April 11
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Children ages 10 and under
Snacks, games, prizes
Fun for all

Children should be pre-registered and accompanied by an adult (no drop-off's please).

If you would like to register a child, volunteer to help entertain, feed or watch over the kids, contact Bev Hall, x1714 or Gerry McIntire, x1889 or e-mail: **bjhall@pop700.gsfc.nasa.gov**

We could use some extra hands to make this a fun time for the kiddies.

Wallops Shorts.....

NASA Scholarship Deadline

Applications for the NASA College Scholarship must be submitted to the scholarship committee, Johnson Space Center by March 31. For further information or an application form contact Sherry Kleckner, x1204 or by e-mail: **Sherry.W.Kleckner.1@gsfc.nasa.gov**

Emergency Medical Assistance

Wallops Fire Department Emergency Medical Technicians responded to a call for medical assistance in Building F-5, March 16. The patient was transported to Peninsula Regional Medical Center, Salisbury, MD.

Judges

Rick Huey, Richard Mitchell, John Brinton, Tom Taylor and **Keith Koehler** served as judges for the Worcester County Tech Fest held March 16 at Snow Hill High School. Areas judged were photography, homepages and web sites, graphic design, greeting cards, programming and multimedia presentation.

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